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# Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PA-01
HA-05 H-01 INR-10 NSCE-00 INRE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00
AID-05 OMB-01 SSO-00 /078 W
----------020373 311114Z /17
O R 311030Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9313
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0607

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, LA, US
SUBJECT: PL-480 FOOD ASSISTANCE TO LAOS

REF: STATE 136989

1. AS INSTRUCTED, THE CHARGE DELIVERED THE AMENDED NOTE ON OUR 10,000 TON LAO FOOD AID CONTRIBUTION TO THE LAO FOREIGN MINISTRY AT 1600 LOCAL TIME MAY 31. SOMBAT CHOUNLAMANY, DIRECTOR OF THE DEVELOPED NATIONS DEPARTMENT, WAS THE RECIPIENT, SINCE UNDER SECRETARY SOUBANH SITHILATH WAS TIED UP WITH THE VISITING THAI FOREIGN MINISTER. (SOUBANH HAD BEEN THE OFFICIAL WHO HAD HANDED US THE LAO REQUEST LAST JANUARY.)

2. SOMBAT WAS TOLD THAT WE WOUQD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER ADDITIONAL FOOD AID PROVIDED WE KNEW THAT THIS INITIAL INCREMENT HAD BEEN CONSUMED BY NEEDY PEOPLE AND PROVIDED THERE WAS STILL A NEED. THE CHARGE STRESSED THAT
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OFFICIALS OF THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM WOULD HAVE TO BE ABLE TO MONITOR AND INSPECT THE DISTRIBUTION AND CONSUMPTION OF OUR AID. SOMBAT WAS TOLD THAT THIS WAS A PERFECTLY NORMAL, PROPER REQUIREMENT.

3. THE CHARGE SAID THAT IN CONSIDERING FURTHER AID, THE U,S. WOULD TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE STATE OF

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U. S.-LAO RELATIONS. WE WOULD BE MINDFUL OF HOW GOOD OR HOW BAD THEY WERE. SOMBAT INDICATED HE UNDERSTOOD PERFECTLY AND THOUGHT THIS ALSO WAS A NORMAL, PROPER CONSIDERATION. (THERE WAS NO MENTION OF MIA'S OR OF LAO ATTACKS ON THE U.S.)

4. SOMBAT THANKED THE CHARGE FOR HIS INFORMATION AND THE UNITED STATES FOR ITS CONTRIBUTION. HE SAID THAT HE THOUGHT THIS MOVE REPRESENTED "A STEP FORWARD IN MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS."

5. FOR BANGKOK: WITH REGARD TO THE PROBLEM OF BRINGING RICE TO AND THROUGH THAILAND, YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT INDIA IS SENDING 1,000 TONS OF INDIAN RICE TO LAOS THROUGH THAILAND. ACCORDING TO THE INDIAN AMBASSADOR HERE, IT IS BEING SENT BY SHIP FROM CALCUTTA TO BANGKOK AND BY ETO TRUCKS FROM BANGKOK TO NONG KHAI.

6. COMMENT: SOMBAT'S POSITION WITH RESPECT TO MONITORING IS ENCOURAGING. NEVERTHELESS, OTHER MINISTRIES AND LAO GOVERNMENT ENTITIES ARE INVOLVED, AND WE ARE BY NO MEANS HOME FREE ON THE ISSUE OF END USE AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS. ROBERTS

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# Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994
**Channel Indicators:** n/a
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED
**Concepts:** PL 480, FOOD ASSISTANCE
**Control Number:** n/a
**Copy:** SINGLE
**Draft Date:** 31 may 1978
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960
**Decaption Note:**
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED
**Disposition Approved on Date:**
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014
**Disposition Event:**
**Disposition History:** n/a
**Disposition Reason:**
**Disposition Remarks:**
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**Document Source:** CORE
**Document Unique ID:** 00
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**Expiration:**
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**SAS ID:** 2502740
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**Subject:** PL-480 FOOD ASSISTANCE TO LAOS
**TAGS:** EAID, LA, US
**To:** STATE
**Type:** TE
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